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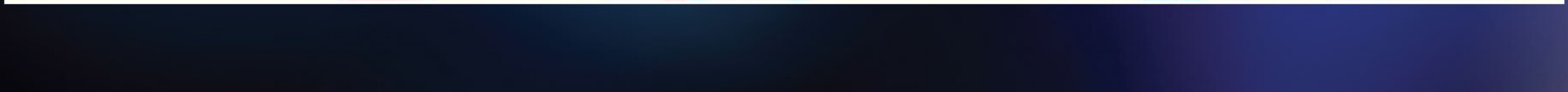
WHAT IF...™ VENOM™ HAD POSSESSED THE PUNISHER®



I STOP IN AT A CHURCH EVERY NOW AND THEN. SOMETIMES I SAY CONFESSION. SOMETIMES I JUST LIGHT CANDLES FOR MARIA AND THE KIDS.

I'M IN OUR LADY OF SAINTS WHEN IT HAPPENS.

I'D JUST SEEN SPIDER-MAN SWING BY OUTSIDE, AND I'M THINKING ABOUT ALL THE TIMES HE'S GOTTEN IN MY WAY.

I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

BUT SOMETHING MOVES--LIKE A SHADOW ACROSS MY FACE--

--AND THEN IT'S ON ME.

IT'S LIKE ICE AND LIKE FIRE AND LIKE COLD STEEL--!

I HEAD FOR THE LIGHT--FOR OPEN AIR--

HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, PAL!

FOR A MOMENT I HEAR A **VOICE** IN MY HEAD--A DRY, HUNGRY WHISPER--AND I WONDER WHAT KIND OF ATTACK THIS IS.

THEN IT'S GONE--AND I **REALIZE**--

--WHATEVER THIS THING IS--IT RESPONDS TO MY **THOUGHTS.**

I'M IN CONTROL.

I AM ***THE WATCHER.*** I HAVE THE POWER TO SEE INTO ***ALTERNATE REALITIES.***

AND IN THE ONE WE WATCH NOW--

IN THE WORLD YOU KNOW, IT WAS **EDDIE BROCK** WITH WHOM THE SHADOW AT THE CHURCH MERGED--

--EDDIE BROCK WHO LEARNED THAT IT WAS AN **ALIEN SYMBIOTE** SPIDER-MAN HAD UNWITTINGLY BROUGHT TO EARTH AS HIS NEW COSTUME--

--AND EDDIE BROCK WHOSE HATRED OF SPIDER-MAN COMBINED WITH THE SYMBIOTE'S TO CREATE **VENOM**--

--ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S **DEADLIEST** AND **MOST POWERFUL** FOES.

BUT IN ***THIS*** REALITY, FATE AND TRANSIENT THOUGHTS OF SPIDER-MAN HAVE WON THE SYMBIOTE A ***DIFFERENT*** HOST.

IN THIS REALITY, WE SHALL LEARN THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION...

--A ***MOMENTOUS CHANGE*** HAS JUST OCCURRED.

...WHAT IF VENOM
HAD POSSESSED
THE PUNISHER
KURT BUSIEK
•WRITER•
LUKE McDONNELL
•ARTIST•
JANICE CHIANG
•LETTERER•
TOM VINCENT
•COLORIST•
CRAIG ANDERSON
•EDITOR•
TOM DeFALCO
•WATCHER•

THE FIRST STEP IS TO FIND OUT WHERE IT CAME FROM. I'VE GOT MICROCHIP WORKING ON THAT-- CHECKING NEWSPAPER FILES AND COMPUTER NETS FOR ANY MENTION OF IT.

AND WHILE HE'S DOING THAT--

--I'M GIVING IT A FIELD TEST.

IT CAN MIMIC THE APPEARANCE OF ANY KIND OF CLOTHING-- AND EVEN CREATE COMPLETELY UNDETECTABLE MASKS.

MAKES IT A LOT EASIER TO SNEAK UP ON MY TARGETS.

ROKY VANCE?

YEAH? WHAT DO YOU--

YOU'RE ROBBING INVESTORS BLIND WITH YOUR INSIDER TRADING AND YOU'RE PAVING THE WAY FOR A FOREIGN TAKEOVER OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

HUH? YOU CAN'T PROVE--

YOU'RE A CROOK.

SHUKK

WORKS LIKE A DREAM. NO NOTICEABLE DELAY BETWEEN MY **THOUGHTS** AND ITS **ACTION**.

HE KILLED MR. VANCE!

I FIGURE IT'S SOME SORT OF **HIGH-TECH BATTLESUIT**-- S.H.I.E.L.D. ISSUE OR SOMETHING.

THAT'S FINE WITH ME. I'M IN A **WAR** AGAINST CRIMINALS LIKE THOSE WHO KILLED MY FAMILY. I NEED EVERY EDGE I CAN **GET**.

GET HIM! HEY, WHAT THE--?!

THIS **STICKY STUFF** IT FIRES IS A LOT LIKE SPIDER-MAN'S WEBBING. IT IMMOBILIZES WITHOUT CAUSING DAMAGE. I DON'T LIKE THAT.

--CAN IT DO **BULLETS**?

BUDDA BUDDA

H-HELP! MURDER! CALL THE COPS! SOMEBODY-- CALL THE COPS!

--THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.

I WONDER. IF IT CAN DO WEBBING--

WELL, NOW--

UNAWARE THAT THE SYMBIOTE IS ANYTHING BUT A **POWERFUL NEW WEAPON**, THE PUNISHER STEPS UP HIS VENDETTA AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD..."

KRASSSH

BLAM BLAM BLAM

THE P-PUNISHER!

R-RUN!

...AND IF HE REALIZES THAT HIS METHODS GROW MORE **BRUTAL** AND **VICIOUS** WITH EACH PASSING DAY...

BLAM BLAM

WE **SURRENDER**, MAN! DON'T YOU *HEAR* ME?

WE SURR-- AKH!

...HE DOESN'T SEEM TO **CARE**.

BUT THOUGH THE PUNISHER EASILY ELUDES THE POLICE, HE IS NOT THE ONLY ***SUPERHUMAN*** IN NEW YORK.

AND INEVITABLY, AS HIS ONE-MAN WAR ESCALATES INTO AN EPIDEMIC OF *DEATH AND MAYHEM...*

...OTHERS NOTICE.

FOR SPIDER-MAN, IT COMES WHILE ON HIS WAY HOME FROM A CLASH WITH THE SUPER-CRIMINAL KNOWN AS CHANCE...

AAAAAH!

DON'T HURT ME! P-PLEASE--DON'T HURT ME!

WHAT THE--?

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU, MA'AM. WHAT IS IT-- WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU--YOU AIN'T HIM, ARE YOU? BUT I SEEN HIM--SEEN HIM RIPPIN' UP THEM GANG KIDS!

HE LOOKED LIKE YOU!

SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME? LIKE THIS COSTUME--?

IT CAN'T BE. MY OLD COSTUME--THAT ALIEN CREATURE-- IT'S DEAD.

ISN'T IT?

FOR DAREDEVIL, IT'S DURING A BATTLE WITH THE WILDBOYS...

HYKKGH

AGGKK!

ABOVE ME--THAT SHAPE!

RADAR SENSE TELLS ME IT'S A MAN--

--AND I RECOGNIZE THAT HEARTBEAT-- IT'S THE PUNISHER!

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. MY HYPER-SENSES CAN'T GIVE ME SPECIFICS, BUT SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT--

--SOMETHING'S WRONG.

ONCE I WRAP UP MY BUSINESS WITH THE KINGPIN-- I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO THIS.

"LATER..."

MY WAR GOES WELL. BUT I'M **TIRED** ALL THE TIME--AND HUNGRY--AS IF THE SUIT **DRAWS ON ME** TO REPLACE THE "BULLETS" IT FIRES.

THAT'S **RIDICULOUS,** THOUGH.

IT'S JUST A MACHINE...

ZZZZZZZZZZ

I ***FOUND*** SOMETHING, FRANK--ABOUT THAT SUIT! IT'S NOT MUCH--A FEW WIRE REPORTS MENTION SPIDER-MAN AT THAT ***CHURCH***--

--I THINK THERE'S MORE IN THE ***FANTASTIC FOUR'S*** COMPUTERS, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HACK INTO--

HEH.

WHAMM

THERE'S THAT *CHURCH*...

I LURED MY ALIEN COSTUME THERE, WHEN IT WAS TRYING TO *BOND WITH ME* PERMANENTLY.

LURED IT THERE -- AND LET THE *SONIC VIBRATIONS* OF THE BELLS KILL IT BEFORE IT DESTROYED ME.

IT'S DEAD. I WAS THERE. *NO WAY* CAN IT BE SWINGING AROUND--

--*WAITAMINUTE!*

DID I SEE SOMETHING *MOVE*-- UP IN THE BELL-TOWER?

NAAH.

JUST JUMPY-- STARTING TO *IMAGINE* THINGS. I'D BETTER GET HOME TO BED BEFORE I--

--WHOOUFF!

GOT TO GET AWAY FROM IT--GET SOME ROOM TO *MANEUVER!*

WHUDDA WHUDDA WHUDDA

OH, MAN! IT *IS* THE ALIEN! IT'S GOT TO BE!

IT DOESN'T TRIGGER MY *SPIDER-SENSE*-- SO IT CAN *BLINDSIDE* ME!

THAT SKULL ON ITS CHEST--IS THAT *THE PUNISHER* IN THERE?

WHOEVER IT IS, HE'S GOT SOME *WILD IDEAS!* CLAWS, GLIDER WINGS, GUNS--

--HE'S USING THE ALIEN COSTUME IN WAYS I NEVER *DREAMED OF!*

OR IS IT--

WHAKK

--THE COSTUME THAT'S *USING HIM?!*

SPIDER-MAN IS, BY ANY STANDARD, ONE OF THE MOST *SKILLED ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE FIGHTERS* IN EXISTENCE.

BUT HIS FOE HAS NOT ONLY ALL OF *SPIDER-MAN'S POWERS* --

--BUT THE RUTHLESSNESS AND TACTICAL SKILL OF THE PUNISHER AS WELL. SPIDER-MAN AVOIDS DEFEAT FOR ALMOST AN HOUR--

IT JUST ATTACKS AND *ATTACKS* AND NEVER SAYS A WORD!

IT'S REALLY GIVING ME *THE CREEPS!*

LOOK, ALIEN, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME-- I NEVER MEANT TO *HURT* YOU!

I JUST--

BLAST! EVERY TIME I GET A HOLD OF IT--IT JUST OOZES OUT OF MY GRASP! I *HATE* THIS!

AND I HATE MY *SPIDER-SENSE* NOT WORKING ON IT, TOO!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT--

KHRAMM

--BUT THE OUTCOME, FOR ALL HIS SKILL AND COURAGE, IS INEVITABLE.

HEH.

NO!

SPIDER-MAN IS NOT A TARGET! SPIDER-MAN IS NOT A TARGET!

HE'S A NUISANCE-- NOT A CRIMINAL!

HE IS NOT A TARGET.

I LOOK AT HIM AND SUDDENLY I KNOW HE'S REALLY PETER PARKER. I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW THAT--

--ANY MORE THAN I KNOW HOW I GOT HERE.

BUT I DIDN'T KILL HIM.

I STOPPED MYSELF. I'M STILL IN CONTROL.

IN CONTROL.

OHHH... I'M GONNA NEED HELP TO DEAL WITH THIS GUY...

"--AND I THINK I KNOW *WHAT KIND!*"

HEY--

--WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *FANTASTIC FOUR?*

THIS *IS* THE F.F.--OR WHAT PASSES FER IT THESE DAYS.

WUZ THERE SOMETHIN' YOU *WANTED*--OR DIDJA JUST STOP BY TO GAWK?

SPIDER-MAN EXPLAINS, AND--

NO PROBLEM, SPIDEY. *THIS* IS THE DINGUS YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR, RIGHT?

WITHOUT *REED* AROUND, WE DON'T USE MUCH A' THIS STUFF ANYWAY.

I'D OFFER TA HELP YOU *PERSONALLY*, BUT WE'RE HEADIN' OFF TA LOOK FOR THE MOLE MAN.

THAT'S OKAY, BEN. WITH LUCK, THIS'LL BE ALL I NEED.

SURE, ONE OTHER THING, THOUGH--

--I DON'T KNOW ABOUT *YOU*, BUT IF THERE WAS A PSYCHO RUNNIN' AROUND DRESSED IN *MY* LONG-JOHNS--

--I'D GIVE SOME *SERIOUS THOUGHT* TO A NEW WARDROBE--

GOOD POINT, BEN--

"--I MAY JUST DO THAT."

MAYBE IT *IS* TIME TO GO BACK TO MY OLD RED-AND-BLUE OUTFIT. AFTER TONIGHT, I'VE GOT TO REPLACE *THIS ONE* ANYWAY--

--AND IT'S NOT LIKE THE DESIGN FILLS ME WITH *WARM MEMORIES!*

I WAKE UP THE NEXT MORNING *REFRESHED*. I'M IN CONTROL. I FEEL *GREAT*.

BAD NIGHT, FRANK?

SLEPT LIKE A LOG.

THAT WAS THE *FIFTH NIGHT THIS WEEK* YOU'VE GONE WEIRD LIKE THAT. FIRST TIME YOU'VE *HIT* ME, THOUGH.

HIT YOU?

WHAT'S NEXT? GOING TO *KILL* ME TONIGHT? OR *JUNIOR* HERE? YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL, FRANK.

NO! I'M IN CONTROL!

YOU DON'T *REMEMBER* DO YOU?

I DON'T NEED YOU--I DON'T NEED ANY@$#%& *NURSEMAID!*

I'M *THE PUNISHER! I'M IN CONTROL!*

I HAVE *WORK* TO DO.

THE PUNISHER!

I'M AFTER A HIT MAN NAMED *TOMBSTONE*. HE JUST STARTED WORKING FOR THE KINGPIN.

SO I KNOW WHERE TO *FIND* HIM.

ATTACKING IN *BROAD* DAYLIGHT--?!

I HIT THEM FAST-- AND PERMANENT.

I DON'T WANT ANY ALARMS REACHING THE UPSTAIRS OFFICES--

AUGH!

PLEASE-- PLEASE--

--BEFORE I DO.

PUNISHER?

TOMBSTONE!

KASSSH

HAH.

AND I'D HEARD HE WAS FAST.

LIKE THAT, IT'S OVER. BUT I'M... STILL PUMPED.

AAAAAAAAA

PTOO

SO, WELL-- I'M HERE. HAH. WHY NOT GO FOR... THE WHOLE BALL OF WAX?

SPLAT

WHY NOT TAKE OUT KIN'PIN HIMSELF?

SHRACKKK

AH, THE PUNISHER. THAT *WAS* FAST.

I'M AFRAID I'M *QUITE* BUSY TODAY, HOWEVER--

--SO I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO *LEAVE*.

WOMAN CALLED **TYPHOID MARY**-- KIN'PIN'S CURRENT ASSASSIN. REAL--REAL **TWIS'ED**.

BUT OTHER ONE--

DAREDEVIL... WORKIN'... FOR KIN'PIN?

HARDLY. I CAME WHEN I HEARD THE *SCREAMS* OF THE MEN YOU KILLED. YOU'VE GONE *BERSERK*, PUNISHER--

--YOU'VE GOT TO BE *STOPPED*.

ME?

STOP ME? WHEN SCUM LIKE KIN'PIN STILL ALIVE?

HEH. *TRY* IT... RED MAN...

...TRY IT AN'DIE!

BLAM BLAM

OO! WHAT *SHARP TEETH* YOU HAVE, GRANDMA. ARE YOU REALLY A *BIG BAD* OL'WOLF?

DON'T *JOKE* WITH HIM, TYPHOID--

-- JUST KEEP HIM *AWAY* FROM THE *KINGPIN!*

BUT I TOO **SMARTER.** *TO BEAT ME, GOTTA... TAKE ME DOWN. ALL'S I GOTTA DO --*

--'S GET *PAS'* THEM.

GLKK HKK

WHMP

BLAST!

TYPHOID, GRAB--

KSSSH

TOO LATE! AND THE SPEED HE'S MOVING -- *TOO FAST* FOR ME TO FOLLOW!

MMM-MM! NO *OFFENSE*, MERRY CHRISTIAN--

THEY **GOOD.** *MOVE... LIKE CHOREOGRAPHED.* ***REAL GOOD.***

--BUT THAT'S A GUY I'D LIKE TO KNOW A *WHOLE LOT* ***BETTER!***

SLURRED SPEECH-- HEART ACCELERATED-- IT'S LIKE HE'S ON A PERMANENT *ADRENALINE HIGH.*

AND HIS *NEW POWERS*--WHAT COULD HAVE *HAPPENED* TO HIM?

THE PUNISHER DOES NOT RETURN TO HIS **HEADQUARTERS.**

INSTEAD, HE PROWLS THE CITY, THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE **MANIPULATING** AND **DISTORTING** HIS HUNTER'S INSTINCTS, CHANNELING THEM TOWARD ONE SPECIFIC TARGET--

--SPIDER-MAN.

BUT THE PUNISHER'S MIND, EVEN UNDER THE SYMBIOTE'S CONTROL, IS *HIGHLY DIRECTED.*

WHEN SPIDER-MAN IS NOT FOUND SWIFTLY, IT FALLS BACK INTO ITS *USUAL PATTERNS--*

--AND ITS *USUAL TARGETS.*

TEACH THOSE @#&%@# TO FIRE *ME...*

CRASSH

BAD MAN. POISININ' *ASP'RIN.* ASP'RIN FOR *FAM'LIES.*

BAAAAD MAAN.

EVENTUALLY, HOWEVER, IT DOES BECOME TIME TO REST.

SO THE SYMBIOTE DIRECTS THE PUNISHER TO RETURN HOME--

--TO THE ONLY HOME IT KNOWS.

I FIGURED YOU'D SHOW UP HERE, IF WE STAKED IT OUT LONG ENOUGH.

SPIDER-MAN...?

THAT'S THE PUNISHER, EH? HE LOOKS TALLER ON TV.

I DIDN'T ASK YOU ALONG TO MAKE JOKES, MOON KNIGHT. THIS IS SERIOUS.

PUNISHER, LISTEN TO ME! THAT COSTUME YOU'RE WEARING--IT'S A LIVING THING. IT'S SENTIENT--AND IT'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER YOUR MIND!

HELP US HELP YOU, PUNISHER. SURRENDER.

SPIDER-MAN... FRIENDS OF SPIDER-MAN.

BAD PEOPLE...

...KILL THEM ALL!

I JUST KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN.

ALL I WANTED WHEN I CAME BACK EAST WAS TO VISIT THE *OLD NEIGHBORHOOD--*

--AND TO TAKE A BREAK FROM THE *WEIRDNESS* OF THE WEST COAST AVENGERS.

KLOPP

BUT WEIRDNESS IS *BI-COASTAL--!*

WHRAMM

MOON KNIGHT-- *BEHIND* YOU!

UHH! THE WAY HE OOZES AROUND-- WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM LIKE A *NORMAL FOE!*

SO *LET'S NOT!*

LET'S TAKE HIM DOWN *HARD AND FAST*-- TOO FAST FOR HIM TO SLIP OUT OF OUR *GRASP!*

NO... NO...

NO!

HAH!

REMEMBER... SPIDER-MAN HURTING... WITH *BELLS!*

HURT SPIDER-MAN *BACK--*

--HURT SPIDER-MAN WITH BELLS!

SHRAK-KANG

FIRST I'LL TRY TO *TALK* HIM DOWN--THEN I TACKLE HIM LIKE HE'S *ELECTRO* OR SOMETHING!

I'M SUBCONSCIOUSLY THINKING OF HIM AS THE *OLD* PUNISHER--FORGETTING HOW *STRONG* HE IS NOW!

GOT TO GRAB THE F.F.'S *SONIC BLASTER* FROM WHERE I STASHED IT SO HE WOULDN'T SEE IT AND *FLEE--!*

GET SOME DISTANCE--

--AND *LET HIM HAVE IT!*

YIIEEGH!

DUMB, *DUMB, DUMB!* WHY AM I SO *STUPID* ALL THE TIME?

IT'S NOT *WORKING*, SPIDER-MAN!

THE SYMBIOTE--IT MUST HAVE *COMPLETELY BONDED* WITH HIS BODY--THE WAY IT WANTED TO WITH *ME!*

THEN WE CAN'T *SEPARATE* THEM--WITHOUT *KILLING* HIM!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT--

THANK--
THANK YOU,
SPIDER-MAN.

I'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE.

BLAM

HUH?

WHAT--?

WHAT--WHAT'S
GOING ON?

I'M DREAMING,
ONLY I'M NOT.

IT'S LIKE
I'M BACK IN
THE 'NAM--

HUFF
HUFF

--AND THERE'S
SOMETHING
STALKING ME!

IT WANTS ME FOR ITS OWN-- WANTS ME TO BE ITS BODY-- ITS HANDS--

--ITS WEAPON.

BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I REMEMBER WHO I AM NOW.

I REMEMBER WHAT I AM.

I'M THE PUNISHER.

I'M IN CONTROL.

COME, ON, THEN! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

I DON'T GET IT. HE JUST--WENT *ALL RIGID!*

HEARTBEAT'S NORMAL. INTENSE *R.E.M.*--BUT HE'S BREATHING LIKE HE'S *AWAKE.*

MAYBE IF I--

NO!

YOU TWO HAVE BEEN *AROUND* LONGER THAN I HAVE--BUT YOU'RE MEN OF SCIENCE. YOU TRUST WHAT YOU HEAR, SMELL, *TASTE--!*

BUT I'M A CREATURE OF MYSTICISM--AND *THE MOON!*

I'VE SEEN THINGS YOU *HAVEN'T!*

I CAN'T PROVE IT--BUT BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT *SOMEWHERE IN THERE* THE PUNISHER'S FIGHTING FOR HIS *FREEDOM--*

--AND WIN OR LOSE--

--IT'S ALL UP TO *HIM* NOW!

BUDDA BUDDA BLAM

KPOW KPOW

IT SHRUGS OFF EVERYTHING I HIT IT WITH, AND THEN I **SEE.**

I SEE ITS *WEAKNESS.*

IT DOESN'T HAVE **COMPLETE FOCUS**. IT WANTS SPIDER-MAN DEAD, BUT IT ALSO WANTS **LIFE**, **ADVENTURE**, THE **THRILL OF THE HUNT**.

CREATURE! LISTEN TO ME!

ME, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING BUT **MY WAR**.

I'LL MAKE YOU A **DEAL**.

ONE-TIME OFFER. TAKE IT OR **LEAVE** IT.

MY WAR'S **NOTHING** IF I'M NOT IN CONTROL. **I'M** NOTHING. AND MY WAR IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN **MY LIFE**.

IT CAN SEE INTO MY **MIND**. IT **KNOWS** I'M SERIOUS.

IT MAKES THE **RIGHT CHOICE**.

IT'S REAL SIMPLE: OBEY MY **ORDERS**--DO EVERYTHING I TELL YOU, **INSTANTLY**--AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE.

DON'T--AND I'LL **KILL** YOU. EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL **MYSELF** TO GET YOU.

IT'S OVER.

IT WORKS FOR *ME* NOW.

HOW CAN WE BE *SURE* OF THAT?

YOU CAN'T. YOU CAN TAKE *MY WORD* FOR IT, OR YOU CAN *KILL* ME.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE *GUTS* TO KILL ME.

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAPERS.

WE CAN'T LET HIM JUST *WALTZ OFF* LIKE THAT! HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S--

SPIDER-MAN-- *WAIT!*

WITH THE KINGPIN DEAD, THERE'S GOING TO BE A *GANG WAR*. TYPHOID, THE ARRANGER-- *EVERYBODY'S* GOING TO WANT TO TAKE OVER.

THEY'RE GOING TO BE *SHOOTING* AT EACH OTHER-- AND AT *INNOCENTS*.

WE CAN'T AFFORD *PERSONAL VENDETTAS* RIGHT NOW. WE'RE GOING TO BE NEEDED ON THIS-- *ALL OF US!*

BUT I--

I *KNOW*. BUT WE'VE GOT *NO CHOICE*--

"--THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE."

AND THUS IT *GOES*.

IN THE WORLD YOU KNOW, VENOM IS ONE OF THE MOST *DANGEROUS CREATURES* ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH--

--AND THE PUNISHER IS HARDLY *LESS SO*.

WHO WOULD THINK THAT IN *ANOTHER* REALITY--REMOVED FROM YOURS BY A MERE *HAIRSBREADTH OF FATE*--

--IT WOULD BE THE PUNISHER WHO WOULD *TAME* VENOM, AND TURN HIM INTO, IF NOT AN INSTRUMENT OF *JUSTICE*--

--AT LEAST ONE OF *VENGEANCE*?

END.